A New Look for Kids Count

How to use the Newark Data Book

For 20 years, Advocates for Children of New Jersey has published the Newark Kids Count Data Book, a one-stop source for child well-being data on our state's largest city. Newark Kids Count includes the latest statistics, along with five-year trend data, in the following areas: demographics, family economic security, food insecurity, child health, child protection, child care, education and teens.

This year's data book features a brand new layout with explanations of specific indicators, as well as updates on how certain information is collected and measured. These explanations help put data into context.

Policymakers including elected officials and government agencies use the data to make informed decisions.

Service providers use the data to improve their response to emerging child-related issues in their communities or cities.

Grant writers use the data to write proposals and solicit support for programs that help children and families.

Concerned residents become better, more informed advocates using the data to identify and address problems facing children and families in their communities.

A few things to remember:

- **Moments and Trends.** ACNJ collects and displays data for multiple years including the most current year available. The most recent moment may tell us one fact (such as the number of births in a given year), while the trend line tells us something else (births to teens down from 12 percent of all births to 9 percent of all births).

- **Newark vs. Essex vs. New Jersey data.** ACNJ compares Newark data to Essex County and New Jersey statewide data where available. These comparisons help tell whether trends are occurring equally in all places (such as the unemployment rate, p. 11) or whether trends are changing faster in one place (such as declines in infant mortality, p. 21).

- **Calculations and Data Sources.** When using this book, please take into account that some percentages and numbers are based on estimates. In smaller geographies, like cities, counties or school districts, sometimes data is suppressed or there are significant margins of error. Additionally, certain indicators represent different points in time such as school years, fiscal years or calendar years. Please review the data sources listed at the end of each section for further information on individual indicators.